(b) if Government is not is a position to offer incentives to the Pharmaceutical Industry, the reasons for not considering price decontrol for those companies which have already set up R&D Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing policy provides for putting outside price control a new drug which has not been produced elsewhere. There is also provision for exempting from price control those drugs in whose case the process is developed through indigenous R&D. In addition, other incentives applicable to all industries, are also admissible to the pharmaceutical sector.

Rivers as National Assets

701. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madras High Court has suggested that all the rivers flowing in the country should be declared as 'national rivers'/'national assets';

(b) whether in view of the acute scarcity of water in certain regions of the country, Government is considering this suggestion; and

(c) if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The High Court of Judicature, Madras has not given any order in this regard. While dismissing the Writ Petition No. 6207 of 1983 filed by one Shri K.S. Radhakrishan against Union of India/ State Government of Tamil Nadu/State Government of Kerala and others, the Court referred to a suggestion given by the other Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu late Dr. M.G. Ramachandran in his letter dated 26.4.82 addressed to the Central Government that Government of India should declare all rivers including inter-state rivers as national rivers and bring forward a legislation to ensure proper utilisation of rivers subject to a condition that the entitlement of the States for water as decided upon by the Tribunal shall, on no account, be disturbed by such legislation. The Court observed that "in our opinion the suggestion is worth consideration by the Central Government, particularly in view of the fact that the problem remains unsettled for over two decades and the methods adopted till now have proved unsuccessful".

(b) and (c) The need for maximising availability of water in the country is already enshrined in the National Water Policy adopted in September, 1987. It states "water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from one river basin to another, based on a national perspective, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins". The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) is already engaged in the task for preparing water balance and feasibility studies for the Peninsular and Himalayan components of the National Perspective.

Linking of Professional Courses

702. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government